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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0246.93

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL RULES FOR 1992 COTTON PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, April 5--Final rules for the 1992 cotton price support program were announced today by Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Weber said the rules are unchanged from the interim rules issued Sept. 4, 1992.



Release No. 0247.93

Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026 EGG

PRODUCER GROUPS HAVE UNTIL APRIL 19 TO REQUEST CERTIFICATION

WASHINGTON, April 5--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that egg producer groups not already USDA-certified as eligible to nominate members and alternates to the American Egg Board have until April 19 to submit their request for certification.

L. P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "USDA will seek nominations this summer from all USDA-certified egg producer groups to fill the two-year terms of nine members and their alternates whose terms expire at the end of 1993."

Half of the 18-member board is replaced each year. The board administers an egg research and promotion program, authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act.

Organizations that have never been certified should request an application and information from Janice L. Lockard, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, Room 3944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, tel. (202) 720-3506.

Certified organizations will be mailed information in the coming months on how to nominate producers or representatives of producers to serve on the board.



Release No. 0248.93

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA PROTECTS 12 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, April 5-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 12 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including barley, bean, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, lettuce, soybean and watermelon.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Selway variety of barley, developed by Plant Breeders 1 Inc., Moscow, Idaho;
- the Blackjack variety of field bean, developed by Gen-Tec Seeds, Ltd., Ontario, Canada;
- the Cran 09 variety of field bean, developed by Gentec Inc., Twin Falls, Idaho;
- the Wax Romano 82264 variety of garden bean, developed by Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- the Apex variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by W Weibull AB, Sweden;

--the Carefree and Richmond varieties of tall fescue, developed by International Seeds Inc., Halsey, Ore.;

--the Bonsai variety of tall fescue, developed by KWS-AG, Germany;

--the Jazz and Sector varieties of lettuce, developed by Genecorp Inc., Salinas, Calif.;

--the Hartz 922 variety of soybean, developed by Jacob Hartz Seed Co. Inc., Stuttgart, Ark.;

and

--the Cutter 55 variety of watermelon, developed by the Coffey Seed Co., Plainview, Texas.

The certificates of protection for the Selway barley variety and the Blackjack and Cran 09 bean varieties are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The AMS administers the Plant Variety Protection Program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.



Release No. 0249.93
Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA PROTECTS 19 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, April 6-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 19 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including barley, lima bean, bermudagrass, corn, lettuce, ryegrass, sorghum, soybean and wheat.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Idagold variety of barley, developed by the Adolph Coors Co., Golden, Col.;
- the Packers variety of lima bean, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;
- the Sonesta variety of bermudagrass, developed by the Farmers Marketing Corp., Phoenix, Ariz.;
- the PHT11, PHBW8 and PHTM9 varieties of corn, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;
- the Aquarius variety of lettuce, developed by Sakata Seed America Inc., Morgan Hill, Calif.;
- the Augustus variety of lettuce, developed by Petoseed Co. Inc., Woodland, Calif.;
- the Comet variety of annual ryegrass, developed by the Willamette Seed Co., Albany, Ore.;
- the PHA86, PHA279, PHA349, PHB279, PHB349 and PHA429 varieties of sorghum developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Des Moines, Iowa;
- the 9162 and 9231 varieties of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;
- the Glacier variety of wheat, developed by the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison, Wis.; and
- the GR915 variety of wheat, developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio.

The certificates of protection for the Idagold barley variety and Glacier wheat variety are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's AMS administers the Plant Variety Protection Program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.



Release No. 0250.93

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

FGIS SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, April 5--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is seeking nominations for five members and four alternates to serve three-year terms on the FGIS Advisory Committee.

The committee advises the FGIS administrator on implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The 15 committee members, appointed by the secretary of agriculture, represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, exporters, scientists, and consumers.

Members of the committee serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for expenses for travel in performance of committee service.

Persons interested in serving on the advisory committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact: David R. Gallart, Acting Administrator, FGIS, Room 1094-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454, in writing and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to the above address not later than May 31.



Release No. 0252.93

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL COMPLIANCE FIGURES FOR 1992 ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, April 5--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that producers on farms which had a total of 78.8 percent of the crop acreage bases established for wheat, feed grains, upland and extra-long staple (ELS) cotton, and rice were in compliance with the 1992 commodity production adjustment program requirements.

Under the program contracts, 8.6 million acres were designated as Acreage Conservation Reserve. Also, 10.9 million acres were idled under the 0/92 and 50/92 provisions; 0.3 million acres were planted to minor oilseeds under the 0/92 provision; and about 6,658 acres of sesame and crambe were planted under the 0/92 and 50/92 provisions.

NATIONAL SUMMARY OF THE 1992 COMPLIANCE REPORT

<u>Crop</u>			0,50/92		Planted to			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Base</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Complying</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>Idled</u>	<u>Oilseeds</u>	<u>Crambe</u>	
	--million acres--		-----	-----	million acres-----			
			-----	-----	-----			
Corn	82.1	62.2	75.7	3.1	2.1	0.1	0.0019	2.2
Sorghum	13.6	10.7	78.6	0.5	1.5	0.004	0.0002	1.5
Barley	11.1	8.3	75.1	0.4	1.8	0.1	0.0024	1.9
Oats	7.2	2.9	40.4	0.0	0.6	0.037	0.0003	0.7
Feed Grains	114.0	84.1	73.8	4.1	6.1	0.2	0.0048	6.3
Wheat	78.9	65.7	83.2	3.3	4.0	0.1	0.0007	4.0
Up. Cotton	14.9	13.2	88.9	1.3	0.4	n/a	0.0012	0.4
ELS Cotton	0.3	0.1	53.5	0.005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice	4.1	4.0	96.4	0.0	0.4	n/a	0.0000	0.4
Total	212.1	167.1	78.8	8.6	10.9	0.3	0.0067	11.2

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

1/ Acreage Conservation Reserve.

Producers complying with the acreage reduction program requirements reduced their plantings by 5 percent for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, and ELS cotton; and by 10 percent for upland cotton. Acreage reductions were not required for rice and oats.

Producers had the option to plant permitted crops other than the program crop on up to 25 percent of any participating program crop acreage base without having a reduction in the size of the base. This acreage is known as "flex acreage". Flex acreage is composed of "normal flex acreage" (NFA), which equals 15 percent of a crop acreage base, and "optional flex acreage" (OFA), which equals 10 percent of a crop acreage base.

Producers planted 4.0 million acres of "flex" acreage to soybeans, 226,039 acres to minor oilseeds, and 649,601 acres to other nonprogram crops.

NATIONAL SUMMARY OF 1992 FLEXIBLE ACREAGE

Crop	Soybeans	Minor Oilseeds	Other Non- program Crops	Total
-----million acres-----				
Corn	2.652	0.018	0.146	2.816
Sorghum	0.182	0.003	0.031	0.216
Barley	0.076	0.048	0.061	0.185
Oats	0.086	0.013	0.018	0.116
Feed Grains	2.995	0.083	0.257	3.334
Wheat	0.755	0.138	0.330	1.223
Upland Cotton	0.073	0.001	0.046	0.121
Rice	0.205	0.004	0.017	0.226
Total	4.028	0.226	0.650	4.903

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

For a complete list of tables that show compliance and "flex" data by commodity and state can be attained by requesting press release number 0251.93 from News Division, USDA, Room 404-A, Washington, D.C. 20250 or phone (202) 720-9120.



Release No. 0261-93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

ESPY CALLS FY 1994 USDA BUDGET A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO RURAL AMERICA

WASHINGTON, April 8--The proposed USDA fiscal year 1994 budget demonstrates President Clinton's clear commitment to economic revitalization for rural America, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said today in making the budget proposals public.

"While we all must contribute to deficit reduction, this budget clearly provides rural American families the basic tools to enhance their communities and the quality of their lives," Espy said.

"While we streamline and reform the U.S. Department of Agriculture to better provide services, we must also work hard to help rural communities meet the challenge of the next century. In only seven years, we will greet the new century and some in America still do not have running water in their homes. This must change.

"We provide increases for housing (\$800 million), health and fire and rescue services (\$375 million), telecommunications (\$50 million), water and sewer services (\$370 million), and small business investment (\$200 million).

"There are changes in farm programs," Espy added. "But overall they maintain their current structure and will continue to do so until we revisit the farm bill in 1995. One aspect of reform includes the creation of the Farmer Service Agency or one-stop shopping for farmers participating in

the myriad of USDA programs. This reform should cut red tape for the farmer and cut costs to the American taxpayer.

"The budget also responds to the need of all Americans by providing 200 additional meat inspectors for \$10 million and an additional \$8 million to fund our new pathogen reduction strategy. We aim to rely on sound science to ensure that our meat supply remains the safest in the world."

Some of the other highlights in the budget include:

--An overall \$900 million in savings.

--\$350 million increase for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children to serve an additional 400,000 participants.

--Three-percent reduction in administrative costs for a \$70 million savings in fiscal year 1994 and a savings of \$800 million through 1997.

--A \$10 million increase to develop sound policies to better manage forests.

--\$370.3 million to enroll 450,000 acres in a nationwide Wetlands Reserve Program.

"The budget proposal treats farmers and rural America fairly. It provides economic stimulus initiatives to renew hope in hometowns all across America. And it holds out hope to some of the neediest in our country," Espy said.



Release No. 0263.93

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA SEEKS COMMENT ON 1994 ARP FOR WHEAT

WASHINGTON, April 8--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on whether the acreage reduction program (ARP) percentage level for the 1994 wheat crop should be 5, 10, 15 or some other level between zero and 15 percent, according to Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The ARP decision must be announced by June 1, Weber said. CCC will also provide an analysis that includes estimated planted acreage, production, domestic and export use, ending stocks, season average producer price, program participation rate and cost to the federal government.

Details appeared in the April 6 Federal Register.

Comments should be submitted by May 3 to Grains Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3740-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. All comments will be available for public inspection in Room 3740-S of USDA's South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours. A regulatory impact analysis on the 1994 wheat program may be obtained from the same address.



Release No. 0265.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA ESTIMATES 1993 MEAT IMPORTS

WASHINGTON, April 9--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's second quarterly estimate of meat imports under the Meat Import Act puts total imports at 1,259.1 million pounds for calendar 1993.

That amount is just below the trigger level of 1,259.2 million pounds at which meat import quotas would be required under the Act's provisions.

Australia and New Zealand have signed voluntary restraint agreements to limit their shipments of meat items subject to the law to 694.9 and 425.0 million pounds, respectively, according to O'Mara. These agreements should keep total 1993 imports of beef below the trigger level, he said.

The two countries are the largest suppliers of fresh beef to the U.S. market, and historically supply almost 90 percent of total U.S. meat imports subject to the Act.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items--primarily beef and veal--if a U.S. Department of Agriculture quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level.

USDA's import estimate includes fresh, chilled or frozen meat of cattle, sheep (except lamb), goats and certain prepared beef and veal products.

Imports of meat subject to the law -- by month -- are:

	1990	1991	1992	1993
	-----	Million	pounds	-----
January	90.7	66.0	97.6	171.3
February	97.1	85.9	99.3	119.6
March	115.4	114.4	91.2	102.3
April	118.0	97.1	129.9	
May	76.9	101.5	143.2	
June	100.8	145.2	132.2	
July	121.3	121.9	167.5	
August	122.2	144.6	114.2	
September	137.7	113.8	75.6	
October	99.9	173.3	151.3	
November	131.8	82.5	95.6	
December	141.0	84.4	26.5	
Total */	1,352.8	1,330.6	1,324.1	

*/ Totals may not add due to rounding.



Release No. 0266.93
 Jim De Quattro (301) 344-2756
 Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA AND CALIF. FIRM EXPAND TESTS OF NEMATODE AGAINST TWO MAJOR CROP PESTS

WASHINGTON, April 9--A California firm and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have joined to expand field tests of a nematode--a tiny wormlike organism--against multibillion-dollar moth pests of U.S. crops.

Corn earworm and fall armyworm moths migrate from cornfields in Texas and Mexico in early summer to attack corn, cotton, soybeans, tomatoes and other crops in up to five other states, said Jimmy R. Raulston at the Agricultural Research Service.

He said, "in a few years there may be a lot fewer of these frequent fliers. In small scale field tests, the nematode has shown that it can infect the pests in the soil--before they become adult moths--and kill them in 48 hours."

Then, farmers would have a new nonchemical way to protect their crops and vastly reduce the pests' migrations, said Raulston, an entomologist at the ARS Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory in Weslaco, Texas.

The nematode, *Steinernema riobris*, killed 90 to 100 percent of earworms in two years of testing at Weslaco, said Raulston, who heads the lab's Crop Insects Research Unit.

ARS and Mexican scientists have begun outdoor tests in four states and Mexico. The ARS-led tests are being conducted under a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) between the agency and Biosys, Inc., of Palo Alto, Calif.

Besides Weslaco, nematodes will be tested at ARS sites in Tifton, Ga., Fresno, Calif., Phoenix, Ariz. and a Mexican research center in the state of-more-Tamaulipas. The nematodes, produced by Biosys, will be applied to corn in liquid sprays and in irrigation water.

A female earworm can lay as many as 1,000 eggs on crop plants. When those hatch a few days later, the resulting caterpillars reduce yields by fattening up on plant tissue. Then they burrow into the soil, emerging as adults 12 to 14 days later. But an *S. riobravus* nematode often finds them before they reach that goal.

The nematode wiggles inside a caterpillar or pupa--the insect's last developmental stage before adulthood. The pest actually is killed by naturally occurring bacteria that live inside the nematode, which then feeds on the corpse.

The nematode is known to infect only crop pests such as the earworms and armyworms in crop fields, said Raulston.

Under the R&D agreement, Biosys would be first in line to apply for an exclusive license to produce and market the nematodes. The firm markets other beneficial nematodes and has developed methods for applying them on crops, said Ramon Georgis, Biosys' vice president for field development.

"We're working to optimize a liquid fermentation method to mass-produce *S. riobravus*," Georgis said. "We're also searching for a reliable formulation of the nematode--in dry or liquid form--that will have a long shelf life."

ARS scientists want to learn how many *S. riobravus* nematodes are needed in the field, when to apply them and what conditions, such as soil moisture, favor their survival in different regions.

The corn earworm--*Helicoverpa zea*--costs U.S. growers \$1.5 billion a year in insecticides and yield loss. It's also called the cotton bollworm, tomato fruitworm and soybean podworm. Fall armyworms cause up to \$500 million in damage to corn, sorghum and forage crops.

S. riobravus seems more effective than other tested beneficial nematodes. "It tolerates hotter soil temperatures and is a stronger underground wiggler," Raulston said.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Jimmy R. Raulston, research leader, Crop Insects Research, Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Weslaco, Texas 78596. Telephone (210) 969-4807.

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Release No. 0267.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

SAUDI ARABIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, April 9--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 400,000 metric tons of U.S. barley to Saudi Arabia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of barley will be made to buyers in Saudi Arabia through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Saudi market.

Today's allocation, added to 600,000 tons remaining under a previous allocation, brings the amount of barley available to Saudi Arabia under the EEP to one million tons.

This allocation will be valid until Sept. 30, as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Release No. 0269.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623
Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

CLINTON BUDGET PROPOSAL WOULD EXPAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, April 9--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said that President Clinton's proposed 1994 budget includes vital components for rural communities across the United States.

"Too often in the past, federal assistance for housing, economic development, community facilities and technology has shortchanged rural America," Espy said.

The administration's budget proposes more than \$1.9 billion in rural development funding in fiscal 1994 over the 1993 funding level, including:

- An additional \$800 million for financing more than 100,000 housing units.

"This level of housing funding represents a 27 percent increase over last year and would be one of USDA's largest increases ever in rural housing," Espy said.

- \$370 million in additional funds for loans and grants to help rural communities build water and waste disposal systems.

"Most Americans no doubt take for granted clean water and efficient waste disposal, but that is hardly the case for many rural residents," Espy said.

- An additional \$375 million to expand or build health care facilities and enhance fire and rescue services in rural areas.

- An additional \$200 million in proposed funds for small business development in rural communities. These funds would be administered to fund small business start-ups and expansions in areas of high unemployment.

- An additional \$50 million in proposed funding to modernize rural telephone systems by making them fully compatible with computer information technology.

"President Clinton and I want America's rural communities to be in the forefront, not the backwash, of this nation's promising future," Espy said.



Release No. 0270.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

USDA TO MAKE DISASTER PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS OF 1992 CORN

WASHINGTON, April 9--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced new assistance for producers of corn crops whose harvest was of low-quality due to natural disasters in 1992.

"These corn producers may be eligible for disaster payments based on the low-quality of their crop, even though the quantity harvested would not usually qualify them for disaster assistance," said Espy.

"I believe this action is necessary to relieve hardships and depressed conditions many corn producers have suffered through no fault of their own," Espy added.

Espy said adjustment in production will be made for corn producers who suffered losses from reduced quality caused by damaging weather or related conditions. "This adjusted production will be used to determine whether these corn producers qualify for disaster payments for the first time, or for additional payments, as applicable," Espy said. "Corn producers who filed a written disaster application for the corn crops may be entitled to additional payments because of quality production adjustments. Also, producers who have not filed a written disaster application for 1992, may file an application through May 7, 1993."

The action came as a result of a meeting Espy attended on Capitol Hill two weeks ago with Michigan corn producers and members of the Michigan Congressional delegation. During the meeting, the corn producers showed Espy corn samples and asked that the U.S. Department of Agriculture take action to assist the producers prior to their spring planting.

In response, Espy sent Randy Weber, the acting director of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, to Michigan the next day to see the extent of the low-quality corn firsthand.

"When producers face a critical situation like corn producers face in Michigan, it's important that this agency act quickly to do everything possible to alleviate the hardship and depressed conditions they are facing.

"Much of the 1992 corn crop grown in some states has very low net value," Espy said. "This was due to low test weight, foreign material, damaged kernels and excessive moisture. Often, drying charges and discounts exceeded the value of the corn. Many producers harvested a quantity that did not qualify for disaster payments."

Producers who had such losses are encouraged to contact their ASCS county office to see if they qualify.



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0254.93

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES ESTIMATED 1992 WOOL AND MOHAIR PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, April 6--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today payment rates for shorn wool, wool on unshorn lambs (pulled wool) and mohair for the 1992 marketing year:

- Shorn wool - 166.2 percent.
- Wool on Unshorn lambs (pulled wool) \$4.92 per hundredweight.
- Mohair 436.4 percent.

These payments were determined in accordance with the National Wool Act of 1954. The shorn wool and unshorn lamb payment rates are based on the 1992 shorn wool support price of \$1.97 and national average wool price of 74 cents per pound. The mohair payment rate is based on the 1992 mohair support price of \$4.613 and the national average mohair price of 86 cents per pound.

Payments will be made in mid-April.



Release No. 0256.93

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, April 6--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels: 7.50 cents per pound
- medium grain whole kernels: 6.76 cents per pound
- short grain whole kernels: 6.75 cents per pound
- broken kernels: 3.75 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and	Marketing
	LDP Rate	Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	

--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.01
--for medium grain:	\$1.85	\$0.03
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.04

Marketing certificates payments will be made in cash at the announced rate, effective today 3 p.m. EST through April 13, to producers who repay their rice loans during the week ending April 13, 1993.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made April 13, 1993 at 3 p.m. EST.



Release No. 0260.93
Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA PROPOSES USER FEES FOR VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, April 7--As authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed in the March 22 Federal Register to charge user fees for the following veterinary diagnostic services performed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:

- laboratory tests required for importation or exportation of animals or birds;
- laboratory diagnostic reference assistance testing requested by veterinarians, universities, or state animal health officials;
- sterilization of animal tissue and blood specimens by gamma radiation;
- provision of reagents and slide and tissue sets to laboratories for diagnostic support.

Written comments will be accepted if received before April 21. An original and three copies of comments referring to docket 91-021-4 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0262.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

PRELIMINARY TOBACCO REFERENDUM RESULTS

WASHINGTON, April 8--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today preliminary results from two referenda held in March among growers of cigar-filler and binder tobacco, types 42-44 and 53-55 and Puerto Rican cigar-filler, type 46, to determine whether to have marketing quotas for marketing years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

The results are:

Cigar-Filler and Binder Tobacco - Types 42-44 and 53-55

STATE	YES	NO	TOTAL	PERCENT YES
Minnesota	8	10	18	44.4
Ohio	39	42	81	48.1
Wisconsin	1,336	238	1,574	84.4

TOTAL	1,383	290	1,673	82.6
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Puerto Rican Cigar-Filler, Type 46

Puerto Rico	9	0	9	100.0
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Since at least two-thirds of the producers voted in favor, marketing quotas will be in effect for this kind of tobacco for marketing years 1993, 1994 and 1995.



Release No. 0264.93

Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-6734

Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Apr. 8--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Apr. 15. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Apr. 9, through midnight Thursday, Apr. 15.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 90 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 2.85 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	47.32 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	90
II.	USNE Price	63.85 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-61.00</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	2.85 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	61.00
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Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
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SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
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Average U.S. location	0.31
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Sum of Adjustments	<u>- 13.68</u>
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Calculated AWP	47.32
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Further AWP adjustment	<u>0</u>
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ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	47.32 cents/lb.
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Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	61.00	
NE Coarse Count Price	- 57.67	
	3.33	
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.95	
	- 0.62	
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0	cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

This week marks the second week of the 3-week spring transition period during which consecutive 4-week Friday-through-Thursday periods contain a combination of Northern Europe price quotations only for 1 to 3 weeks and both Northern Europe current shipment prices and Northern Europe forward shipment prices only for 1 to 3 weeks. During this spring transition period, the user marketing certificate payment rate is based on the difference in the fourth week between the USNE current price and the NE current price, minus 1.25 cents. The payment is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 1.60 cents per pound. Relevant data are summarized below:

Thursday Week	For the Friday through Period Ending	USNE Price	NE Price	Minus Price	USNE Payment NE	User Certificate Rate 1/
		cents per pound
1	Mar. 18, 1993	65.40	61.90		3.50	2.25
2	Mar. 25, 1993	63.20	61.08		2.12	0.87
3	Apr. 1, 1993	63.25 (c)	60.85 (c)		2.40	1.15
4	Apr. 8, 1993	63.85 (c)	61.00 (c)		2.85	1.60

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

(c) Based on current price quotations.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Apr. 15.



Feature-

Release No. 0253.93

Susan Conley (202) 690-0351

Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

HOTLINE OFFERS FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR FESTIVE SPRING CELEBRATIONS

WASHINGTON, April 6--Spring is a time for religious observances, Mother's Day, graduations and merely celebrating putting away the winter woollens. By tradition, it's a time when food helps set the stage for fun and fellowship...and safe food handling is key.

"Remembering a few important food safety points can help prevent foodborne illness," said Susan Conley, manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline.

"Raw foods like meat, poultry, and eggs can be a source of bacteria. Thorough cooking, proper cooling and refrigeration prevent the growth of bacteria that could cause illness," Conley said.

If the occasion calls for a buffet, serve hot food from chafing dishes, slow cookers, or warming trays that maintain the internal temperature of the cooked food at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

USDA recommends that raw eggs, poultry, meat and fish be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F. to kill any pathogens present in the product. Once cooked, food may be maintained at 140 degrees F. or refrigerated at 40 degrees F. or below to prevent future growth of pathogens.

For cold foods, nestle the serving dish into a bed of crushed ice. Small platters for replenishing the serving table can be prepared ahead and stored in the refrigerator. Foods that have been held at room temperature for more than two hours should be discarded.

Here are some additional tips for specific springtime favorites.

--**HAMS:** Dry-cured (country) hams keep one year on the shelf. Refrigerate country ham after slicing. Sliced, country hams may be kept in the refrigerator two to three months and, once cooked, five to seven days.

Fully cooked, ready-to-eat hams must be kept refrigerated. If desired, heat to 140 degrees F. before serving. Fresh (raw) hams also must be refrigerated; they must be cooked before eating to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F. Leftover ham slices will keep up to five days in the refrigerator.

Canned hams with a "Keep Refrigerated" label must be stored in the refrigerator; use them within six to nine months.

--**LAMB, BEEF BRISKET, OTHER MEATS:** All meat should be cooked in an oven set no lower than 325 degrees F. to an internal temperature of at least 160 degrees F. Brisket requires longer cooking for tenderness and desired flavor. Cutting the brisket into uniform pieces and cooking with a sauce in a slow cooker is a safe alternative.

All perishable foods should be refrigerated as soon as the meal is over, but no longer than two hours after removal from the refrigerator or oven. For foods like ham, lamb and brisket, carve the remaining meat and store in small, shallow containers in the refrigerator or freezer.

--**HARD-COOKED EGGS:** Since hard-cooked eggs should not be out of the refrigerator for more than two hours, hide them just before the Easter egg hunt, not the night before. When preparing the eggs to be hidden, take care not to crack the shells. If the shells are cracked, bacteria from hands and hiding places could contaminate the egg.

Recipes for braided Easter breads often call for eggs, unshelled and dyed, to be pushed into the plaits of the braid before or after baking. These eggs should be considered decoration only and not eaten, unless the bread is stored in the refrigerator.

For best flavor, use hard-cooked eggs within one week.

--**DECORATED CAKES:** Raw eggs, like raw meat and poultry, may contain bacteria. If your cake filling or frosting recipe calls for raw egg, there may be a risk of salmonella food poisoning. Look for a recipe that cooks the egg or combines it with a hot syrup. If the egg mixture reaches 160 degrees F., it should be safe. Whipped cream or whipped toppings can be a safe substitute in some recipes. You also may buy pasteurized meringue powder where cake decorating supplies are sold.

--**MERINGUES:** The bacterium *Salmonella enteritidis* may be in the whites of eggs as well as the yolks; therefore, care must be taken when preparing meringues using raw egg whites. Meringue shells that have been heated and air-dried are safe if all the moisture has evaporated. Meringues on a pie are safe if heated in a 350-degree oven for at least 20 minutes, and the temperature in the center of the meringue has reached 160 degrees F.

For more food safety facts, call USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. Washington, D.C. area residents call (202) 720-3333. Home economists and registered dietitians staff the line weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time.



Media Advisory-

Release No. 0255.93

USDA TO CEASE PUBLISHING FARMLINE MAGAZINE

WASHINGTON, April 6--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service will cease publication of "Farmline" magazine after the March 1993 issue. The department is looking at ways to disseminate the information more economically.

"Farmline" has been published monthly for 14 years, reporting agricultural economics research in a feature style for a general audience.

Contact: Jack Harrison, (202) 219-0494.

